

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling conferences, with at least one announcement/dialog function, and at least one
5 conference function, comprising:
 - starting a conference with dialog of a conference leader with an announcement/dialog function under control of a conference management function;
 - 10 monitoring a data stream of the conference leader for keywords or tones by the announcement/dialog function to control the conference; and
 - whenever a keyword or tone is identified, the dialog is started between the conference leader and the announcement/dialog function.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the conference commences when a service call number is dialed by the conference leader, such that a connection is set up between the conference leader and the
20 announcement/dialog function, such that the dialog takes place to exchange characteristic data, and the conference is initiated based on service entitlement of the conference leader and available conference resources, and inclusion of additional conferees is executed under
25 control of the conference management function and in the dialog of the announcement/dialog function with the conference leader.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dialog
30 between the announcement/dialog function and the conference leader is DTMF-controlled.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dialog
35 between the announcement/dialog function and the conference leader takes place using a keyword spotting voice recognition function.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the keywords monitored by the announcement/dialog function are of a spoken nature and/or are configured as DTMF input.

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6. The method according to claim 1, wherein identifying a keyword in the dialog between the conference leader and the announcement/dialog function enables further conference features to be optionally initiated, including at least one of an additional conferee, isolation or disconnection of a conferee, influencing of image configuration/video conference mode, data input, formation of discussion groups, and moving the conference leader between discussion groups in the conference.

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7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dialog between the conference leader and the announcement/dialog function is optionally suppressed for other conferees by disconnecting the conference leader from the conference via the control interface with the conference function for the duration of the dialog.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the conference ends when the conference leader terminates the connection or via the dialog between the conference leader and the announcement/dialog function, with an option of displaying accrued charges and/or the accrued charges being stored via the conference management function for each section of the conference in a database.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the conference leader can be passed to one of the conferees or the conference function can be controlled by the conferees by means of dialog with the announcement/dialog function.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein details of the dialog with the conference leader and conferees are stored as VoiceXML scripts on at least one content server accessible to the dialog functions.

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11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the conference management function identifies availability of the conference function and the announcement and dialog function and influences progress of the dialogs with the conference leader and conferees accordingly via the control interface.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the conference management function, the recognition function and the conference function are at least duplicated on at least two different hardware platforms.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the conference management function is configured to intervene during control of a conference and is configured to activate the announcement and dialog function to inform and interrogate the conferees.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein for entry into conference status, connection of the conference initiator is automatically forwarded from the announcement/dialog function to a conference function.

15. A device for controlling conferences, with at least one dialog function and at least one conference function, which operate on at least one conference system, comprising a control interface provided between the announcement/dialog function and a conference management function, which initiates at least one conference via the conference management function and controls progress based on voice and/or tone signals of one or more

conferees occurring in a data stream and in conjunction with at least one announcement/dialog function.